

REMARKS

Applicant elects the inventions of 1a, 2b and 3a. Claims 1-3, 6-7, 10-15 and 17-27 read on what is elected. Claims 1, 12-14 and 17-27 are generic.

The election is made with traverse. The Examiner states that the species recite mutually exclusive characteristics. Applicant disagrees.

Given the Examiner's request to identify select a "group" from each "species", perhaps the Examiner actually meant that (a) and (b) were mutually exclusive species for each feature 1, 2 and 3. As seen in the example shown in FIGS. 1A-2 and described in the corresponding portions of the specification, a surface of a first ceramic barrier layer is modified, such as by chemical or mechanical modification or by introduction of nucleation promoting material. A second barrier layer is then applied using the new nucleation site. The application of the second barrier layer can include deposition techniques such as CVD or PVD. Thus, each of "species" 1a, 1b, 2a and 2b is an embodiment of forming a nucleation site, whereas "species" 3a and 3b are embodiments of forming a second barrier layer at the new nucleation site, which is used with at least one of the "species" 1a, 1b, 2a or 2b.

Moreover, the claims are open-ended, the possibility of combining methods for forming the nucleation sites is not excluded. For example, a nucleation site could be provided by applying a material followed by modification of the applied material. As another example, multiple materials with different critical nucleus could be applied to form the nucleation sites.

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Respectfully submitted,

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